

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

New Guinea—Fish-hooks. With Plate B.

Balfour.

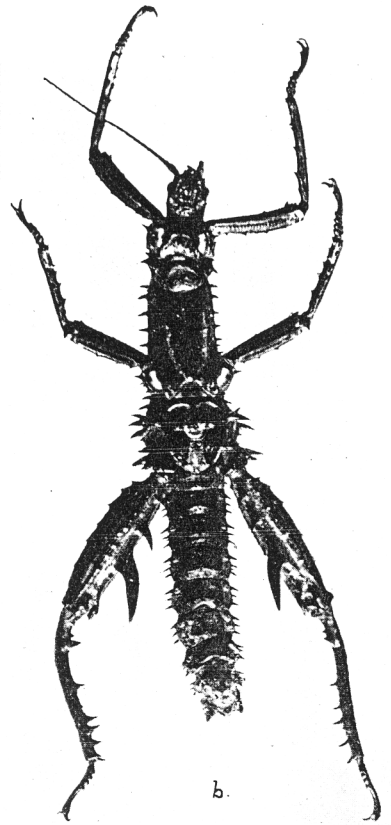
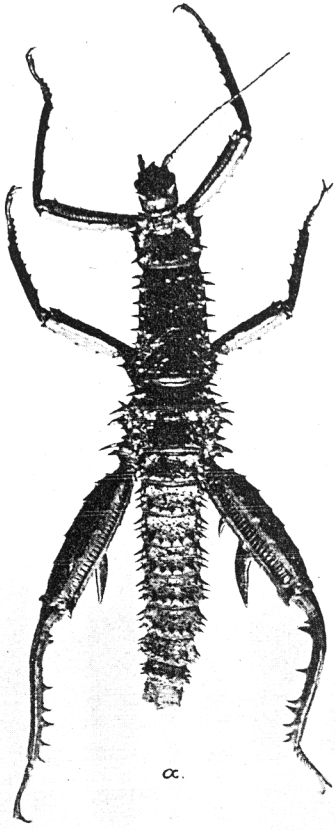
Note on a New Kind of Fish-hook from Goodenough Island, 9
d'Entrecasteaux Group, New Guinea. By Henry Balfour, M.A., F.Z.S.

Amongst the specimens collected by Mr. D. Jenness during his recent expedition to the islands of the Massim district of south-east New Guinea, under the auspices of Oxford University, are some native fish-hooks of a type which I have not seen described before, and I send the following brief account of them in the hope that it may prove of interest to others.

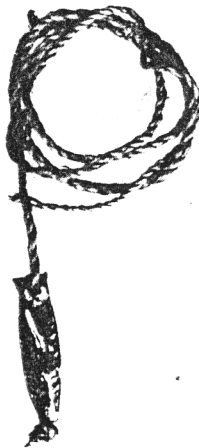
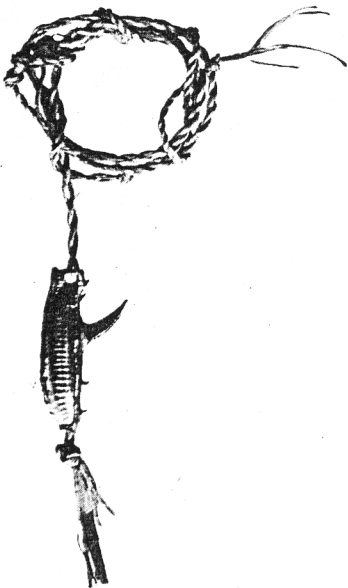
These fish-hooks are used by the natives in the hill-villages of northern Goodenough Island for line-fishing in the fresh-water streams. Their interest lies in the fact that they are derived direct from Nature, which supplies them ready-made. They merely require to be fastened to a tapered snood of twisted vegetable fibre, and are then ready for use. Three examples are shown in the photograph (Plate B) with their snoods attached. Each hook consists of the thick upper joint of the hind leg of an Orthopteran insect, *Eurycantha latro*, one of the Phasmids. They are supplied by the males only, since these alone are furnished with the long, stout, re-curved spur, which renders the leg-joints so suitable for adaptation as fish-hooks. The females have only small spurs, which would be useless for the purpose.

The photographs showing the dorsal (*a*) and ventral (*b*) surfaces of one of the males of this species, about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, show clearly the position of the spines upon the upper leg-joints. These leg-joints, and therefore the fish-hooks made from them, are about $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches, or 4 centimetres, in length. I am not sure whether the hooks are baited when in use. I should be very glad to learn whether these natural fish-hooks have been observed from any other region.

HENRY BALFOUR.



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A NEW KIND OF FISH-HOOK FROM GOODENOUGH ISLAND.